Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I would supplement the answer by saying that in one or two cases these lady clerks were transferred from the Secretariat to the schools because they happened to be trained.

EXEMPTION FROM TOLL—OFFICERS OF THE AGRICULTURE AND PANCHAYAT DEPARTMENTS

253. Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Officers-on-tour of the Agricultural and Panchayat Departments are exempt from paying toll;

(*b*) if not, why;

(*c*) whether they were exempt; and

(*d*) the date and the reasons for the change?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) Do not arise.

PETITIONS RECEIVED BY THE DIWAN PEISHKAR—DISPOSAL OF

254. Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of petitions received by the Diwan Peishkar and the number disposed of in the years 1115, 1116, 1117 and 1118;

(*b*) the number received in each of the said years and remaining undisposed at the end of each year;

(*c*) the month and year in which petitions were received and the month and year in which they were disposed of;

(*d*) the number of petitions received in each of the said years and still pending orders?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) As the petitions are not separately registered now it is not possible to furnish the information without much labour and it will not be commensurate with the public interest served.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* It is stated that the petitions are not separately registered now. May I know what is being done and what was being done formerly.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Before the Tottenham system was introduced, there was a petition register and every petition used to be registered in that register. But afterwards for every clerk there is a personal register and every paper that comes to that section, whether it is in the shape of a petition or whether it is in the shape of anything else is registered and if on the same subject more petitions than one come, they are also simply put as papers received.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Are you not in a position to gather the information required.

Mr. President: Order, order. The printed answer states that the information can be gathered with much labour.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Will the Government be pleased to note that there is wide-spread complaint that petitions addressed to the Diwan Peishkar meet with much delay before being disposed of. That is my information.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is not exactly correct with regard to every petition. Some petitions do take some time, from the nature of the facts that have to be investigated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether there were not many petitions received in the year 1115 but still remaining undisposed of?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Not many. There may be a few petitions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know the number approximately.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I cannot say.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Has not the Diwan Peishkar, Sir, a personal Assistant?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes. he has.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Are there not two assistants?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishaker):* There is only one personal assistant.

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